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March 10, 2015

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5 South Last Chance Gulch
P.O. Box 201301
Helena, MT 59620-1301

RE: Nexus Correctional Facility – Lewistown, Montana Reaccreditation – American Correctional Association Report Newspaper Articles – Community Partnership

Dear Director Batista:

On behalf of the CCCS Board of Directors and the administration and staff of Nexus, I am forwarding the reaccreditation report as completed by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in regards to Nexus. Additionally, I am including an article specific to the reaccreditation process which was published in the newspaper and an article relative to the Nexus family members (offenders) giving back to Head Start, thus demonstrating their "pay-it-forward" philosophy

The accreditation report and article clearly validates the Nexus Program's success. The process measures utilizing the best practices in the correctional business and are the best gauge of Nexus' overall performance. The re-accreditation process reveals strengths and weaknesses in any facility and, in this case, served to validate the hard work and dedication of the Nexus staff as they perform their day-to-day duties and responsibilities. By maintaining ACA accreditation, Nexus has helped CCCS via its NEXUS operations, to continue to "raising the bar" in the quality of program operations. There are tremendous benefits for staff, family members (offenders), the community and the State of Montana in upholding the highest levels of care, custody, safety and security.

The accreditation process is labor-intensive and costly; however, it brings an external source of professional observation that ensures ongoing monitoring and measurement of operational performance in those efforts dedicated to continuously enhancing and improving program operations.

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Accreditation is only awarded to the best of the best in the correctional/treatment field. The pursuit of accreditation gives CCCS a stronger defense platform against litigation through the maintenance of documentation and the ongoing commitment of good faith effort to continuously improve the conditions of NEXUS and that we conduct and hold our operations in a manner consistent with national standards, that gives us the ability to truly measure how well we are fulfilling our mission and maintaining our vision.

CCCS embraces the intensive labor that is a part of this very taxing process as it permits the NEXUS staff with the opportunity to show off their facility and program operations. Everyone at Nexus and within all of CCCS is proud of this accomplishment. It is our opinion that ACA accreditation sets us apart as progressive leaders in the field of corrections and treatment programming. The Nexus program and several other CCCS' programs are the only ACA accredited programs in Montana, with the exception of the Pine Hills facility and the Montana Board of Pardons & Parole. Few programs earn the distinction to claim they are ACA accredited, but those who have earned that privilege can proudly state that they are among "the best in the business!"

Achieving ACA accreditation is an additional way that CCCS and the Nexus Program demonstrate our dedication to deliver quality programs and services. CCCS elected to absorb all costs related to this very challenging re-accreditation without seeking any reimbursement from the Montana Department of Corrections. We believe those stringent ACA standards represent the national benchmark in measuring effective correctional systems throughout the United States. The ACA accreditation process brings an external source of accountability that we believe is critical.

I thank you for taking the time to read the detailed report and the enclosed articles. There is significant information that can be extracted from the data contained within the report. It is important to note that Nexus received high accreditation scores from the members of the ACA Review Audit Team. The Audit Team also observed that the Nexus staff is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and committed to the activities of the various program components. The attitudes conveyed by NEXUS staff ranked among the most positive the Audit Team had observed during their reviews at a number of different audit sites.

In closing, on behalf of the CCCS Board of Directors, Management Team and everyone at Nexus, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to you, Governor Bullock, Lieutenant Governor McLean, State Budget Staff and our Montana Legislators for your past support of Nexus and to also ask for your continued support. If you have any questions regarding this report, or the attached articles, please let me know.

sincerely

MIKE THATCHER
Chief Executive Officer

MT/mh

c: Governor Steve Bullock

Lieutenant Governor Angela McLean Chief of Staff Tracy Stone-Manning

MDOC Budget Director Dan Villa MDOC Deputy Director Loraine Wodnik

MDOC Administrator Kevin Olson

MDOC Treatment Contract Program Manager Rick Deady

State Representative Randy Brodehl, Chair Appropriations Sub Committee on Corrections

CCCS Board of Directors

CCCS Director of Chemical Dependency Programs Dave Boyd

Nexus Program Administrator Rick Barman

Attachment(s)



To years. At the far right is teammate Tara Olson, Date while an injured Nicole Bill No. Karhi (left) also celebrates with Maria Henderson.

Photo by Doreen Heintz

NEXUS reaccredited, praised by Correctional Association

By CHARLIE DENISON Staff Writer

Last month, the American Correctional Association reaccredited Lewistown's NEXUS Methamphetamine Treatment Center.

Scoring high in every category and abiding by all 117 required standards, NEXUS passed with flying colors, receiving glowing reports about the staff and the family members being treated.

"Nearly all of the staff encountered by the audit team merited our praise," the audit report reads. "Rarely does an audit team have the privilege of auditing a facility that is well structured and complete with such great staff. Each person and staff the audit team encountered was open, honest and competent."

NEXUS Administrator Rick Barman said he is very pleased with the auditors report and the impression made by the staff

"This is huge," Barman said.
"I really appreciate the hard work the staff puts in and their level of professionalism. I was glad to see them get recognized for it."

The auditors came to Lewistown Nov. 10 and 11 of last year. Areas of NEXUS they looked at included security, environmental conditions, sanitation, fire safety, food service, medical care, tecreation, religious programming, offender work programming, offender work program, academic and vocational education, social services, visitation, library services and laundry

On Feb. 8, Barman and NEXUS Security Coordinator Darren Fisher attended the ACA Winter Conference in Long Beach, California, where they received the report from auditors and were officially reaccredited.

"A lot of work goes into the accreditation process," Barman said. "We are up for reaccreditation every three years, and it can be a challenge to put all the paperwork together that is needed, but we were able to get everything the auditors needed ready for them and get all of their questions answered to their satisfaction. The auditors were very thorough in their investigation. They wanted to make sure we were doing what we were supposed to be doing."



NEXUS Clinical Director Howard Lamley, left, talks with NEXUS Administrator Rick Barman Monday afternoon in the gym at the NEXUS facility. The American Correctional Association reaccredited NEXUS last month.

Photo by Charlie Denison

Barman said he couldn't be happier with the results. Not only was the staff praised; the NEXUS family members being treated were also compliments and

"The team was impressed with the positive attitudes displayed by the offenders, which are in direct correlation to the

quality of the treatment program and facility operations,' the audit reads.

This is the third time NEXUS has been reaccredited. The treatment center opened in 2008. The treatment center employs 44 people when fully staffed and can hold up to 86 family members.

pht is Fergus County commission Date Ross Butcher 50th teststed Tam in support of this le Bill No. Commission Commission

"I think this is common enforcement to the same st. Former state senator, nov Winifred also testified in su

Opponents to the bill i Game Wardens Associatio attorney general who, for n the statewide prosecutor for Montana Sportsmen's Alli Country Sportsmen's Associ "When we are fully staf Parks has 75 field game wwide," said FWP Chief of Kropp. "Montana has 148,0

Kropp. "Montana has 148,0 of our folks cover 2,000 sq We log 135,000 - 150,000 fa year and write about 4,000 "Our wardens are peace the same law enforcement officers. There's a lot of pas because the public cares a but we don't support the Kropp added.

According to FWP Deput ment Mike Korn, reached dens have supervisors and complaints to ensure prope

"The state constitution tections for the public," Kon He also disagreed that the officers to write citations for the constitution of the citations of the constitution of the constitution

officers to write citations f the law.
"We do not have a quot

"We do not have a quot tions given is not part of the for our wardens," Korn said cers based on things like he sportsmen groups and land with hunter education."

Korn said while wardens 4,000 citations per year, ti times as many warnings.

"Things will go wrong &
Korn said, "but that's unus
The Montana House of R
to 35 against HB281, which
dead" on the legislature's w

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A SUGGESTION, NEWS ITEM OR CONCERN? CONTACT THE NEWS-ARGUS AT 406-535-3401 OR EDITOR@LEWISTOWNNEWS.COM

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xus family gives to Head Star-



s part of their treatment, the family members at the Nexus Program learn to give back to others. This fall staff members, Michelle Stanton and Karlyle Conner oversaw a group of family members that sold challenge bracelets as a fund raiser. Those funds were used to purchase coats and mittens for several of the families at Central Montana Head Start. The children were excited to receive their new winter gear and have been putting these warm clothes to good use on a daily basis. Central Montana Head Start appreciates the family members of Nexus for their service to the

Head Start student Bobbi enjoys a day of snow play in a new coat provided by Nexus family members. Photo courtesy of Head Start